Government is aware of the problems being faced by the litigants. In order to consider the problem of arrears of cases in courts and to find out ways and means to deal with it as expeditiously as possible, a meeting of the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts was held on 45th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Chief Ministers and Chief Justices among other things, were also of the opinion that courts were not in a position to bear the entire burden of justice system and that a number of disputes lent themselves to resolution by alternative modes such as arbitration, mediation and negotiation. They emphasised the desirability of disputants taking advantage of alternative dispute resolution which provided procedural flexibility, saved valuable time and money and avoided the stress of a conventional trial. The Resolutions adopted in the conference have been commended to all the State Governments/UT Administration and High Courts for necessary follow up action.

Moreover, the Administration of Justice has been made a plan item with a view to remove infrastructural bottlenecks coming in the way of expeditious disposal of cases.

Request to amend People's Representation Act

4172. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a regional conference organised by non-Governmental organisations was held in Trivandrum in the month of August, 1994;

(b) whether there was a demand in this conference to amend the people's Representation Act so as to give proportional representation to women; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals recommended and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) to (c) As per a newspaper report, a Conference on 'Women in decision making' was organised by a New Delhi based Centre called the Centre for Social Research recently at Thiruvananthapuram, wherein it was decided, amongst others, to work towards launching of a political party of women and wresting 50 per cent reservation for women in appointments, admissions and elections in the country. The Government has, however, not received any proposal or recommendation from the Centre for making any amendments to Representation of the people Act.

Strength and Vacancies of various High Courts

4173. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the strength and vacancies of judges in various High Courts;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of vacancies of the post of judges in different State High Courts;

(c) if so, the position as on 30th June, 1994; and

(d) the details of steps taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(d) The process of consultation among the concerned Constitutional authorities for filling up the existing vacancies is on. It is, however, not possible to indicate when these vacancies would be filled up.